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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Science and
Education
Administration

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No. 14

SEA's Revised FY 1982 Budget

A new increase of \$13,558,000 is proposed for the agency under the Administration's revised budget request in FY 1982 to bring the total request to \$1,019,306,000 for FY 1982. As a comparison, \$1,005,748,000 was submitted to the Congress last January and \$940,319,000 is being provided in FY 1981. The additional funding underscores the Administration's commitment to further strengthen food and agriculture research and education efficiency as an integral component of its strategy to stimulate economic recovery.

By major program activity, the total SEA proposal will provide:

Agricultural Research - \$426.1 million, an increase of \$29.0 million over 1981;

Cooperative Research - \$234.2 million, an increase of \$39.3 million over 1981;

Extension - \$317.4 million, an increase of \$25.1 million over 1981;

Human Nutrition - \$32.3 million, an increase of \$2.6 million over 1981;

Technical Information Systems - \$9.3 million, an increase of \$.5 million over 1981; and

Higher Education - \$11.5 million funded under Bankhead-Jones eliminated.

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Overall, the total Budget proposed for the Science and Education Administration in FY 1982:

- * Will rise by \$79.0 million above 1981.
- * Provides SEA and its State cooperators with additional monies to maintain high-priority programs at present levels.
- * Reflects a modest growth for research programs.
- * Allows for accelerated growth for some high-priority programs designed to increase agricultural productivity and efficiency.
- * Supports work of other agencies who rely on research data to improve the quality of their action programs.
- * Addresses natural resource concerns in the areas of water use efficiency; pollution prevention; soil erosion; and conservation tillage.
- * Emphasizes support for the research being performed by the State Experiment Stations, Forestry Schools and other SEA cooperators.
- * Recognizes that Federal spending must be reduced by tightening up on program management wherever possible.

Secretary Meets With SEA Employees and Coordinating Council

Secretary Block met with SEA Headquarters employees in February, asking us to help carry out the goals, objectives and directions he is establishing for the Department. He urged employees to read his speeches and statements, and newspaper accounts of them, to get an insight into his philosophy and goals since, as he said, he will never have the opportunity to meet and talk personally with all of us.

The Secretary also asked USDA staffers to help him promote and provide a climate for a healthy, prosperous U.S. agriculture system to serve not only farmers but also agribusiness, industry and consumers. I am enclosing with this letter a copy of recent remarks by Secretary Block before the National Farmers Union Convention in Orlando, Fla. earlier this month.

Secretary Block also met with our "Coordinating Council" -- a group of SEA middle managers -- yesterday morning. He emphasized as he has on other occasions that agriculture's challenge for the 1980's cannot be met without research and education.

The Secretary responded to questions from the floor and in response to one, said that research on post harvest technology should not be neglected -- that perhaps we should do more -- and that he will be considering this and a whole host of other matters.

He emphasized the importance of USDA working with other departments and of a team effort within USDA as well. "We should think of ourselves as employees of USDA," he said, and not just of one agency or another within USDA.

He also stressed the need for good Federal-State relationships and pointed out the effectiveness of leadership at the Federal level in place of "dictating to" the State level.

FY 1983 Budget Planning Process Underway

SEA managers and representatives from the NASULGC Committees on Organization and Policy and a representative of AAUAA met early last month to consider special areas of emphasis for planning the Fiscal Year 1983 budget.

The group identified a number of special emphasis areas that support science and education programs focusing on the high priority themes of productivity, conservation and use of natural resources, and expanding export markets for agricultural products.

The areas they identified for special consideration are: Basic research, energy in agriculture, plant and animal germplasm, expertise development, increased operating costs, support for action agencies, integrated pest management (a part of crop productivity), integrated reproductive management (a part of animal productivity), animal health, market productivity (including exports), conservation and use of natural resources and selected programs in support of people and communities.

A Workshop and A Colloquium

I had the honor and pleasure of addressing the first "Issues in Agriculture" colloquium series at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on February 25. I spoke to about 150 faculty and student members from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences on the topic "Agricultural Research and Education: What's Ahead for the Nation?" Following the speech, we had a lively question and answer session. I find such meetings with faculty and students particularly interesting and stimulating and always come away from them enriched.

While in Madison, I also participated in a workshop on "Soil and Water Resources: Research Priorities for the Nation," sponsored by ten scientific societies.

Copies of the executive summary of the workshop will be available in six weeks from the Soil Sciences Society of America, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisc. 53711. The complete report of the proceedings should be available in July, from the same source.

Science and Education Program Coordination in USDA

Representatives from SEA met recently with staff members from the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economics and Statistics Service, Forest Service, Office of Budget, Planning and Evaluation, Office of Environmental Quality, and the Soil Conservation Service to identify opportunities for coordinated science and education programs in food and agriculture in USDA and identify issues and programs of mutual interest for FY 1983 budget planning.

A staff support team led by E. L. Corley, SEA-Joint Planning and Evaluation, will continue to develop cooperative efforts in identifying themes and projects of mutual interest.

International Activities

Terry B. Kinney, Jr., administrator, SEA-AR, made an extensive 8-day tour of Israeli experiment stations and other research facilities and commercial farming operations last month.

During his trip, he met with Israeli administrators and scientists to discuss the Bi-National Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) program--a cooperative effort between Israel and the United States to develop research programs of high priority interest to both nations. SEA scientists are taking part in the research and are also providing technical assistance in reviewing and processing research proposals. BARD is currently supporting research in soil and water conservation management and use; crop and plant improvement; crop protection; animal production technology; recycling of wastes for agricultural production; agricultural engineering; post-harvest sciences; and agricultural economics.

During his visit, Dr. Kinney observed work in many areas including a cotton production model aimed at predicting irrigation and fertilizer needs; hydroponics for the production of vegetables and ornamentals; and jojoba production, plant tissue culture and tomato shelf life.

Publications of Interest

The Joint Council issued two reports of special interest in January. "Proposed Initiatives for the Food and Agriculture Sciences: 1981-1986," identifies five major issues in the food and agricultural sciences that need increased attention: Productivity, energy, natural resources, families and rural communities, and structure of agriculture and policy considerations.

The "1980 Annual Report to the Secretary of Agriculture" contains the Joint Council's recommendations for areas in need of additional program emphasis during Fiscal Year 1982. Specifically, the council recommends that additional resources be directed toward selected, high-priority programs of research, extension and higher education dealing with: Productivity and efficiency in the food and agriculture system, energy conservation and production in agriculture and forestry, human nutrition and natural resources.

The above reports are available from the Executive Secretary, Joint Council, USDA, Room 351-A, Administration Building, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The National Science Foundation has issued a report on "Science and Engineering Education for the 1980's and Beyond." It is available from the Government Printing Office for \$3.75. Write to Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20402. The publication number is NSF-80-78. This report has a special section dealing with food and agriculture.

Pork Producers Council Honors SEA Scientist

Roger J. Gerrits, SEA-AR's national research program leader for swine production and diseases, was honored for his lifelong contribution to the pork industry at the annual meeting of the National Pork Producers Council in Washington, D.C. on February 4.

The plaque presented to Dr. Gerrits reads in part: " . . . His unique ability to coordinate the endeavors of his scientific peers in and out of Government, academia and industry, coupled with his dedication to improve livestock production, and his devotion to the welfare and livelihood of pork producers, has resulted in unparalleled progress . . ."

Human Nutrition Meeting Held

Jane Voichick, acting deputy administrator, SEA-Extension Food and Nutrition, recently coordinated a meeting in Boston between staffs of the Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service and the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University. Both staffs presented current and future program plans and discussed how their programs could be mutually supportive. Participating were Donald Therriault, assistant administrator for program operations, Human Nutrition; Hamish Munro, director, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging; Gaurth Hansen, consultant, Human Nutrition; Elsie Fetterman, home economics state leader, Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service; Margaret Randall, coordinator, Massachusetts Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program; Janina Czajowski, nutritionist, Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service; and four county Extension home economists from Massachusetts.

International Conference on Chemistry and World Food Supplies

SEA is co-sponsoring the International Conference on Chemistry and World Food Supplies -- The New Frontier (CHEMRAWN II) to be held Feb. 2-6, 1982 at the Phillipine International Convention Center, Manila.

CHEMRAWN II is the second in a series of international meetings designed by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to identify and address world needs amenable to solutions through chemistry.

The International Rice Research Institute, renowned throughout the world for the significant role it has played in the advancement of agriculture in developing nations, joins in co-sponsoring this conference.

For further information about CHEMRAWN II contact Joyce Torio, CHEMRAWN II Coordinating Office, International Food Policy Research Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

James Meyers, UAB, Joins California Cooperative Extension Service

James Meyers, who has served as executive secretary of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board for two years, has accepted the position of associate director for programs with the University of California Cooperative Extension Service in Berkeley. He begins his new position April 6.

Project Coordinating Office Transferred to JPE

SEA's Project Coordinating Office (PCO) has been transferred from Technical Information Systems to the Program Planning Staff of Joint Planning and Evaluation.

This transfer is designed to strengthen SEA's information management and reporting capabilities, insuring current, detailed response to future managerial needs.

PCO coordinates and tracks Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) projects through the approval process for SEA Agricultural Research, Human Nutrition and Special Programs.

Jim Smith will continue to head PCO.

OTA Prepares Report on U.S. Food and Agricultural Research

The Office of Technology Assessment is preparing a congressionally requested report on U.S. food and agricultural research. A draft of the report, which examines the role of USDA, state experiment stations, non land-grant universities and the private sector in the conduct of agricultural research, is currently being circulated to agencies, including SEA, for review. The final report should be issued this summer.

Japanese Cherry Tree Presentation

As a symbol of friendship between the people of Japan and the United States, First Lady Nancy Reagan presented a young cherry tree to Japanese Ambassador Yoshio Okawara at a White House ceremony on February 24. Secretary Block participated in the ceremony and several SEA staff members and I attended.

Roland Jefferson, a botanist at the Arboretum, propagated the tree from a Yoshino cherry tree planted at the Tidal Basin in 1912 by Mrs. William Howard Taft. That tree was one of 3,000 ornamental cherries given to the United States by the people of Japan.

The presentation highlighted efforts by scientists at the Arboretum to help Japan re-establish selections of ornamental cherry trees which no longer exist there. In January, Japanese cherry tree experts collected 3,000 cuttings from the Tidal Basin and the Arboretum for planting in the Adachi ward of Tokyo where the trees given to the United States in 1912 originated.

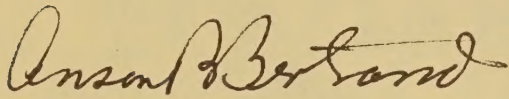
The United States also has had difficulty in preserving particular selections of the ornamental cherry trees. The Japanese have invited Mr. Jefferson to spend the month of April in Japan to collect cherry tree specimens, to document cherry tree varieties and to meet with Japanese researchers.

National Agriculture Day

President Ronald Reagan has proclaimed March 19 National Agriculture Day, with the purpose of developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for, agriculture's role in the Nation's way of life and of each individual's personal stake in a reliable food and fiber supply.

"The productivity and efficiency of American agriculture are basic ingredients in our national strength. Agricultural productivity is a major weapon in the war against inflation and in the struggle to eliminate world hunger. The efficiency of the American farmer is the envy of the world," President Reagan said in the proclamation.

Secretary of Agriculture Block is serving as honorary national chairman of National Agriculture Day.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anson R. Bertrand". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

ANSON R. BERTRAND
Director
Science and Education

